AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 14 and ending on page 3, line 3 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

One conventional load balancing technique involves the use of a domain name server (hereinafter "DNS"). This device is responsible for resolving uniform resource locators or "URLs" (e.g., "~~www.foo.com~~ www.___.com") to specific IP addresses (e.g., 111.222.111.222). In this regard, a Web site having several servers may operate under a single URL, although each server is assigned a different IP address. It is up to the DNS to determine which server to route a web user to when a request is made. For example, a round-robin DNS performs load balancing by routing requests to these servers in sequential rotation based on their IP addresses.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 and ending on page 5, line 22 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

After this information is stored on the domain name server of the proxy server network, the domain name server of the proxy server network can begin mapping a fraction of the overall mapping requests to the proxy servers. The overall fraction of requests mapped by the domain name server will depend on the initial agreement between the proxy network and the purchaser. For example, if the unused proxy capacity was determined based on an estimate of extra capacity available, the proxy network might service the purchaser website's mapping requests using its best efforts for the time ~~its~~ it agreed to provide proxy server capacity to the purchaser. In such a

case, the final bill due the proxy server network will be based on the purchaser website's actual usage of the proxy server capacity.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 4 and ending on page 10, line 18 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

Fig. 3 is a hardware diagram depicting the general path taken by a user's request for a particular address on the internet, and the path taken in receiving that address used in the prior art. A user 50 using a web browser requests a web site address using a URL. The URL is then sent to a local domain name server 51 on the user's 50 own local network. Domain name servers are responsible for resolving uniform resource locators or "URLs" (e.g., "~~www.foo.com~~ www.___.com") to specific internet or internet provider ("IP") addresses (e.g., 111.222.111.222). If the user 50 is requesting an address on the local network, the local domain name server 51 will have the corresponding internet address and will relay the internet address back to the user 50. The web browser of the user 50 will then take the user 50 directly to the requested site.